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Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2428
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E. O. 11652: N/ A
TAGS: PGOV, AF
SUBJ: RGA - NEW MINISTRIES AUTHORIZED AND DRAFT LAWS APPROVED
BY ROYAL DECREE

SUMMARY: HIS MAJESTY SIGNED ROYAL DECREES PROMULGATING REVISED POLICE LAW, ANTI- BRIBERY LAW AND AMENDMENTS TO BASIC ORGANIZATION ACT (FOUR NEW MINISTRIES - HIGHER EDUCATION, PUBLIC NEEDS, SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND TRIBAL AFFAIRS), CIVIL SERVICE LAW (PROMOTIONS) AND JUDICIARY LAW (COMPULSORY RETIREMENT OF OLDER JUDGES) PRIOR TO CONVENING OF PARLIAMENT ON MARCH 13, BUT FACT HAS NOT BEEN PUBLICIZED. RGA MUST STILL PRESENT LAWS TO PARLIAMENT BUT CAN ENFORCE IN MEANTIME. ACTION REQUESTED. NONE. END SUMMARY.

1. IN COMPLETELY UNPUBLICIZED MOVE, HIS MAJESTY SIGNED ROYAL DECREES PROMULGATING, PRIOR TO RECONVENING OF PARLIAMENT ON MARCH 13, REVISED POLICE ACT, ANTI- BRIBERY LAW, AMENDMENT TO BASIC ORGANIZATION LAW WHICH AUTHORIZES FOUR NEW MINISTERIES (HIGHER EDUCATION, PUBLIC NEEDS, SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND TRIBAL AFFAIRS), RAISES RANK OF PRIMIN' S PARLIAMENTARY LIAISON CHIEF TO MINISTER AND PROVIDES SIR SINE REORGANIZATION OF PRIME MINISTRY, AMENDMENT TO CIVIL SERVICE LAW REGARDING PROMOTIONS FOR CIVIL SERVANTS, AND AMENDMENT TO JUDICIARY LAW PROVIDING FOR COMPULSORY RETIREMENT OF OLDER JUDGES. COMPLETE TEXTS THESE LAWS NOT AVAILABLE AS YET; BUT THEY ARE ALL VALID SINCE DECREE
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HAS BEEN PUBLISHED IN OFFICIAL GAZETTE. WHEN ASKED WHY THERE HAD BEEN NEITHER PUBLICITY NOR EVEN PRESS ANNOUNCEMENT OF THESE SIGNIFICANT CHANGES, DEPMIN JUSTICE ZHOUAND TOLD POLOFF RGA SAW NO NEED TO BRING TO PUBLIC' S ATTENTION; IN FACT, HE ADDED, " WE DO NOT LIKE TO PUBLISH THEM" OFFICIAL GAZETTE IS NEITHER WIDELY DISTRIBUTED NOR READ.

2. POLICE LAW IS REVISION OF LAW APPROVED LAST YEAR BY ZAHIR CABINET JUST PRIOR TO ZAHIR VISIT WEST GERMANY. SHAFIQ INSISTED THAT CHANGES BE MADE BEFORE HE WOULD APPROVE IT.

3. ANTI- BRIBERY LAW IS ONE APPROVED BY CABINET IN EARLY FEBRUARY . IT IS NEW GOVERNMENT' S WEAPON AGAINST CORRUPTION, VENERABLE INSTITUTION WHICH SHAFIQ HAS PLEDGED TO REDUCE.

4. AMENDMENT TO BASIC ORGANIZATION NOT ONLY PROVIDES FOR FOUR NEW MINISTRIES BUT IT SETS FORTH EACH MINISTRY' S AIMS (DISCUSSION EACH NEW MINISTRY BY AIRGRAM). TRIBAL AFFAIRS HAS BEEN OFFICE UP TO NOW; THIS ACT UPGRADES IT AND IS CITED AS FURTHER EVIDENCE OF IMPORTANCE AND ATTENTION WHICH RGA GIVING PASHTU AFFAIRS. SIMILARLY UPGRADING OF PRIMIN' S CHIEF PARLIAMENTARY ASSISTANT IS VIEWED AS ADDITIONAL SIGNAL TO PARLIAMENT OF ESTEEM IN WHICH IT IS HELD BY PRIMIN. (NOT YET CLEAR HOW PARLIAMENT VIEWS THIS ACTION.) ORGANIZATION OFR YOUTH AFFAIRS ALSO CREATED BUT DETAILS AS YET UNAVAILABLE. MORE IMPORTANTLY, AMENDMENT AUTHORIZES ESTABLISHMENT OF AN " ORGANIZATION" (UNNAMED AS OF THIS DATE) WITHIN THE PRIME MINISTER' S OFFICE TO ENSURE BETTER MANAGEMENT OF THE PRIME MINISTER' S DUTIES. PENDING ADDITIONAL DATA WE UNDERSTAND THIS TO MEAN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PLANNING OR OMB- TYPE OFFICE TO ENABLE PRIMIN KEEP BETTER TRACK AND CONTROL OF ACTIONS (OR INACTIVITY) TAKEN IN HIS NAME. HE HAS DISCUSSED NEED FOR SUCH ORGANIZATION WITH AMBASSADOR ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS.
DECON DEC 31, 1973.
NEUMANN

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